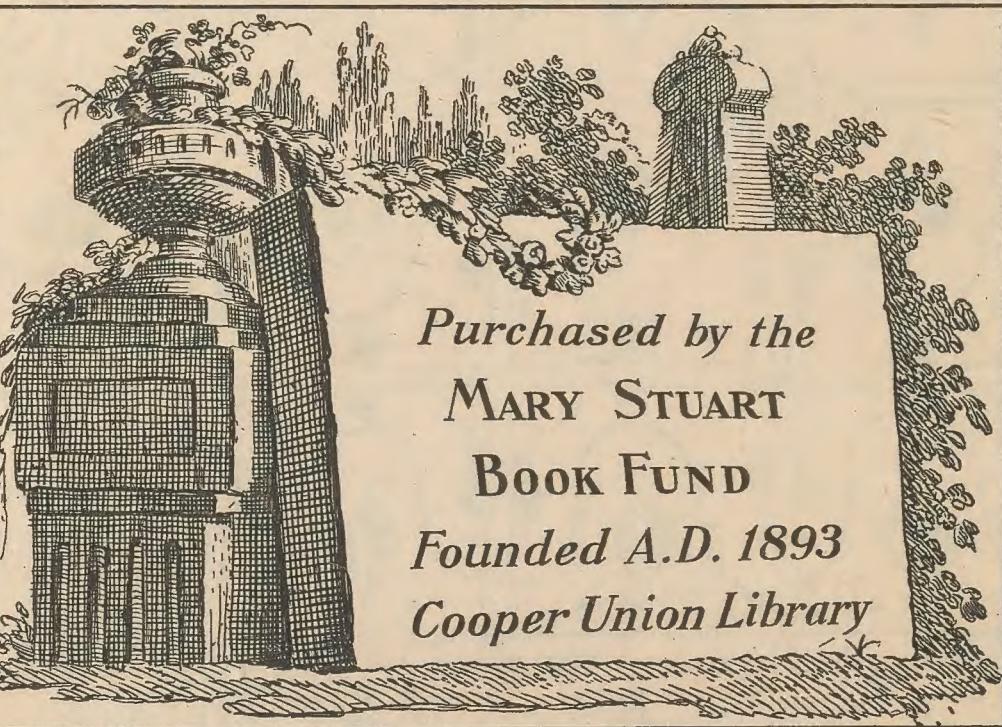


BABY'S OWN ÆSOP

WALTER CRANE



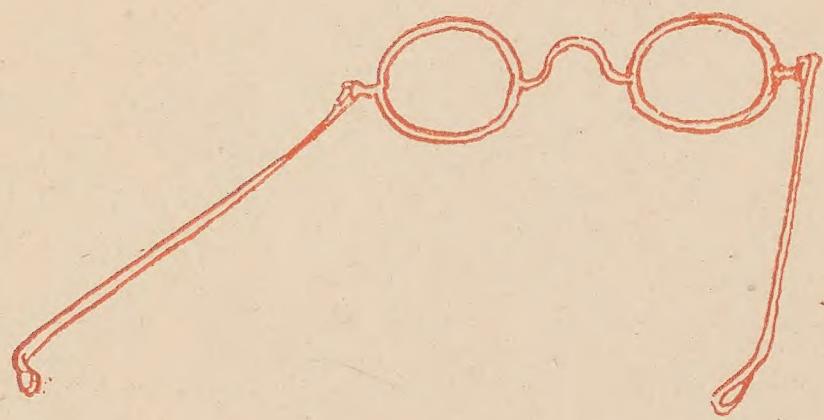
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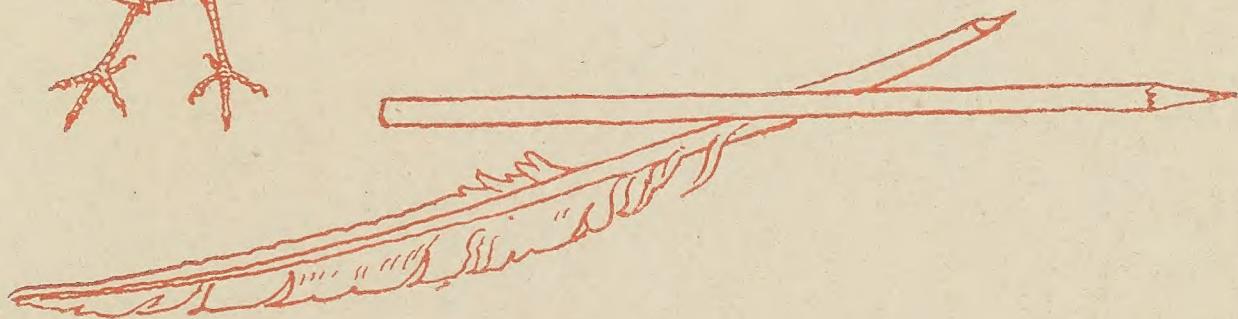


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First Edition.

THE
BABY'S OWN
ÆSOP

BEING THE FABLES CONDENSED IN RHYME
WITH PORTABLE MORALS
PICTORIALLY POINTED

BY

'WALTER CRANE'

ENGRAVED & PRINTED IN COLOURS BY

EDMUND EVANS

LONDON & NEW YORK
GEORGE ROUTLEDGE
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MDCCCLXXXVII

ENGRAVER & PRINTER

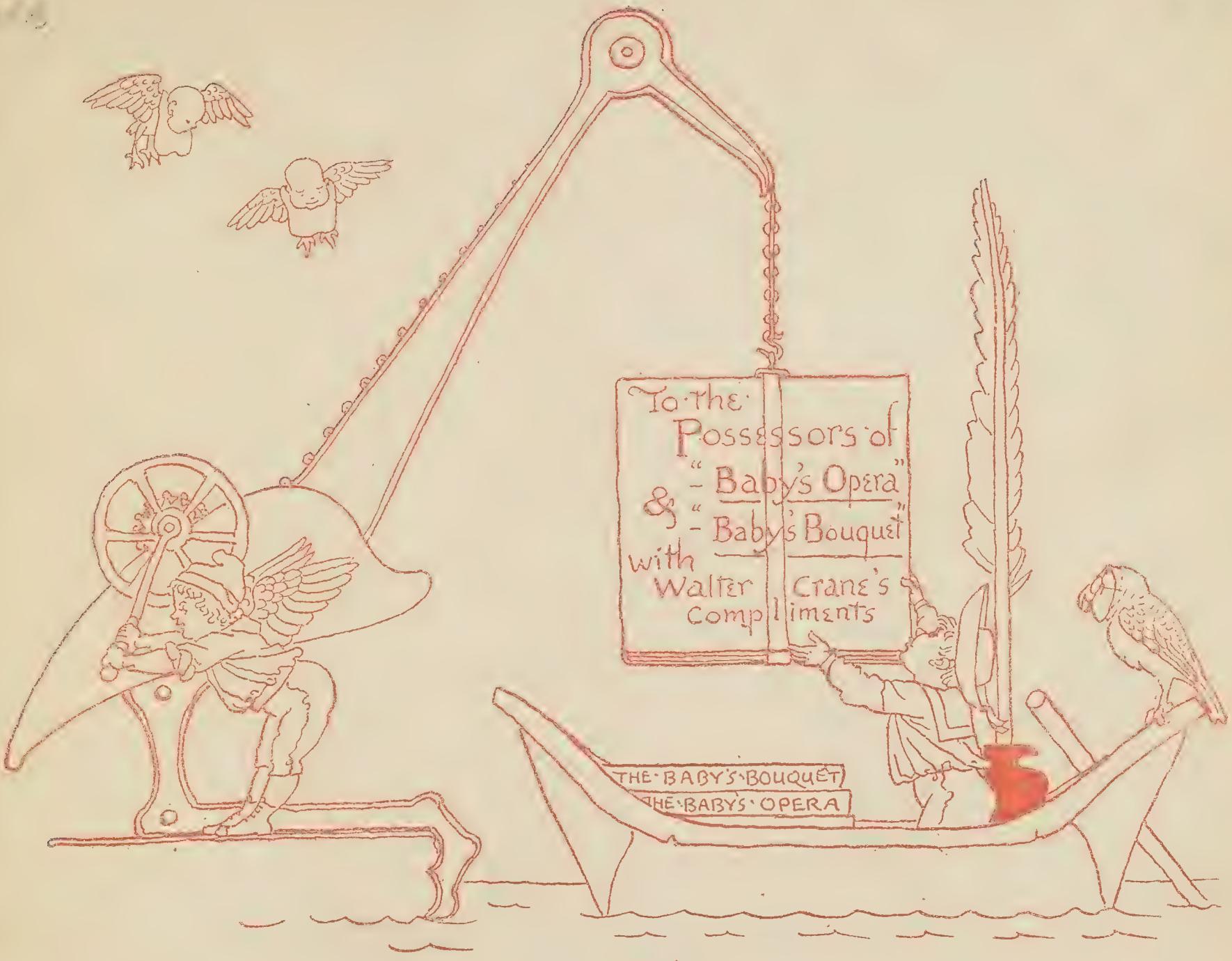


* PREFACE *

OR this rhymed version
of the Fables I have
to thank my early
friend and master W.J. LINTON,
who kindly placed the M.S. at my
disposal. I have added a
touch here and there, but the
credit of this part of the book
still belongs to him.

Walter Crane







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ERRATA AND ADDENDA.

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Page 42.—For “The Man and the Satyr,” read Hot and Cold.

Page 43.—For “The Cock,” &c., read Neither Beast nor Bird.

*Page 52.—For “The Fisherman,” &c., read { Cock, Ass, and Lion.
The Ass and the Lap Dog.*

Page 54.—Add Fisherman and Fish.

Page 55.—Add The Herdsman’s Vows.



AESOP'S
FABLES

THE FOX & THE GRAPES

THIS Fox has a longing
for grapes;
He jumps, but the bunch still
escapes.
So he goes away sour;
And, 'tis said, to this hour
Declares that he's no taste
for grapes.



“THE GRAPES OF DISAPPOINTMENT ARE ALWAYS SOUR.”





THE COCK & THE PEARL

A ROOSTER, while scratching
for grain,
Found a Pearl. He just paused to
explain

That a jewel's no good
To a fowl wanting food,
And then kicked it aside with
disdain.

"IF HE ASK BREAD WILL YE GIVE HIM A STONE?"

THE WOLF AND THE LAMB

A WOLF, wanting lamb for his
dinner,
Growled out - "Lamb you wronged me,
you sinner!"
Bleated Lamb - "Nay, not true!"
Answered Wolf - "Then 'twas Ewe -
Ewe or lamb, you will serve for my
dinner."

"FRAUD AND VIOLENCE HAVE NO SCRUPLES."





THE WIND & THE SUN

THE WIND and the Sun had a bet,
The wayfarers' cloak which should get:
Blew the Wind - the cloak clung:
Shone the Sun - the cloak flung
Showed the Sun had the best of it yet.

• TRUE STRENGTH IS NOT BLUSTER •



KING LOG & KING STORK

THE FROGS prayed to Jove for a king:
Not a log, but a livelier thing."

Jove sent them a Stork,
Who did royal work,
For he gobbled them up, did
their king.

DON'T HAVE KINGS





THE FRIGHTENED LION:



BULL FROG, according
Sat a-croak ^{to rule,} in his
usual pool:

And he laughed in his heart
As a Lion did start
In a fright from the brink
like a fool.

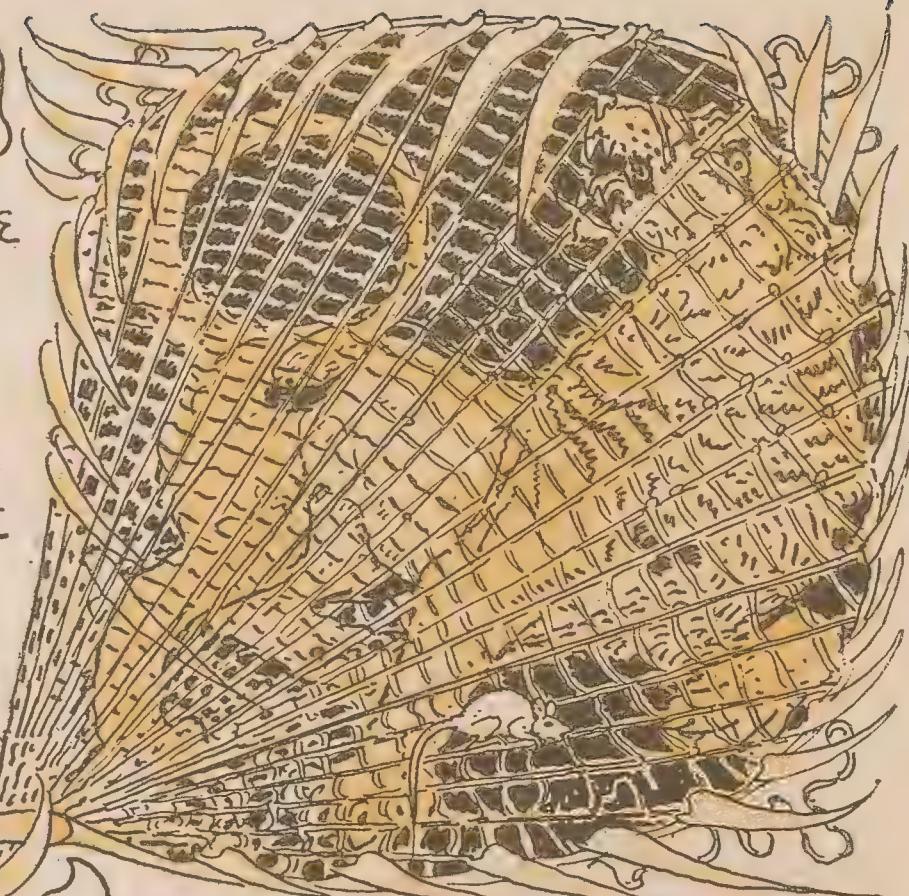
'IMAGINARY FEARS ARE THE WORST.'

:THE·MOUSE·&·THE·LION:



POOR thing the Mouse
was, and yet,
When the Lion got
caught in a net,
All his strength was no use
'Twas the poor little Mouse
Who nibbled him out of the
net.

'SMALL·CAUSES·MAY·PRODUCE·GREAT·RESULTS

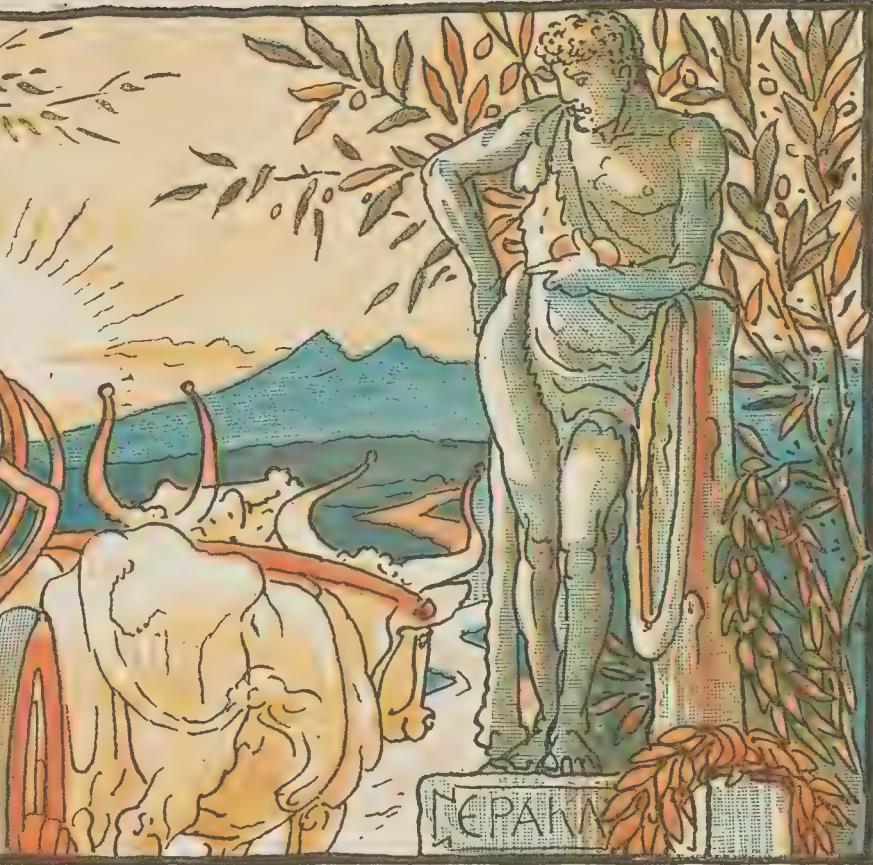
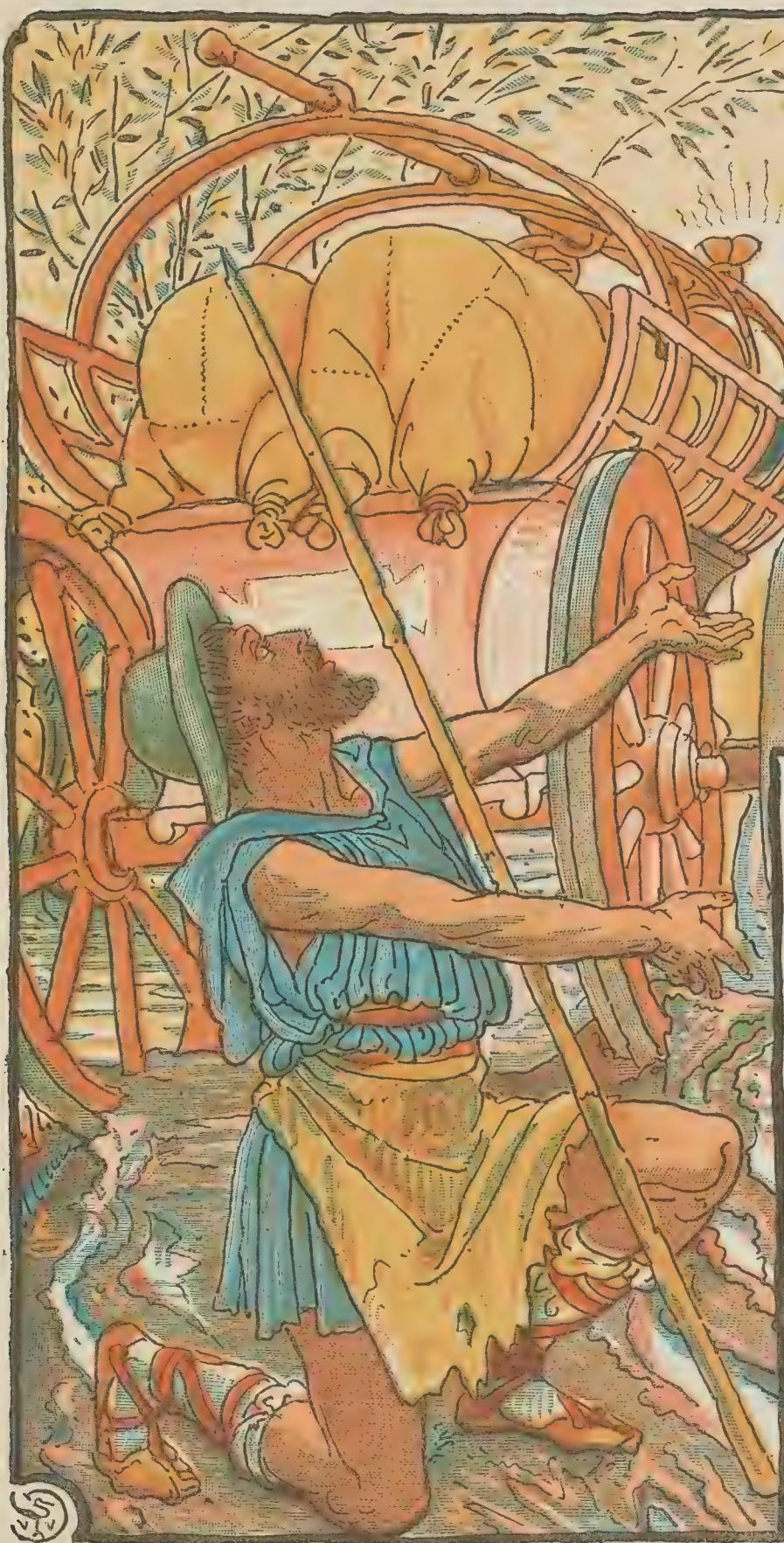


:THE·MARRIED·MOUSE:

SO the Mouse had Miss
Lion for bride;
Very great was his joy and
his pride:
But it chanced that she put
On her husband her foot,
And the weight was too much,
so he died

'ONE·MAY·BE·TOO·AMBITIONOUS·

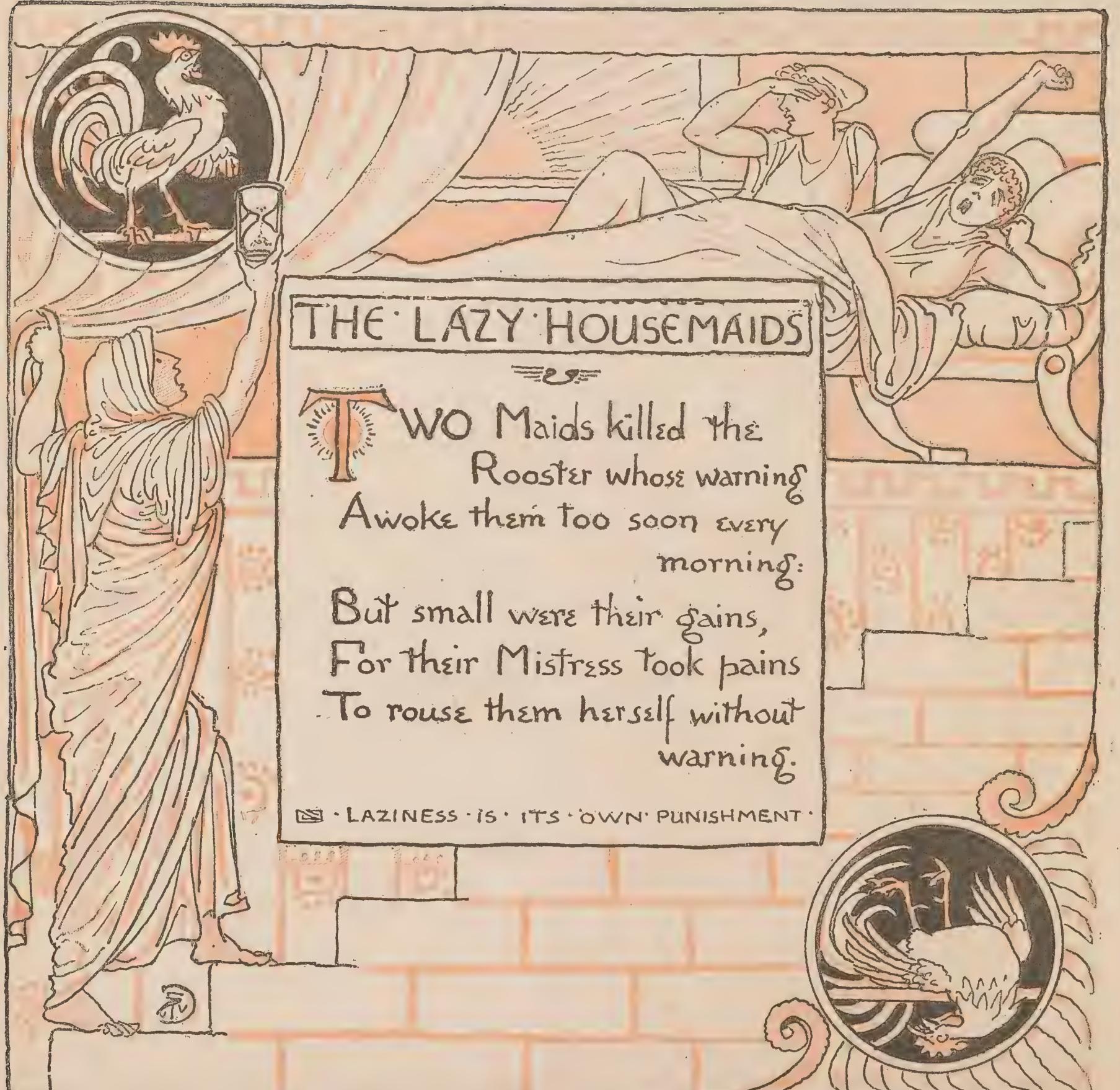




HERCULES & THE WAGGONER

WHEN the God saw the Waggoner kneel,
Crying, "Hercules! Lift me my wheel,"
From the mud where 'tis stuck!
He laughed - "No such luck;
Set your shoulder yourself to the wheel."

THE GODS HELP THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES.



THE LAZY HOUSEMAIDS

TWO Maids killed the
Rooster whose warning
Awoke them too soon every
morning:

But small were their gains,
For their Mistress took pains
To rouse them herself without
warning.

■ LAZINESS ■ IS ■ ITS ■ OWN ■ PUNISHMENT ■



S:THE SNAKE & THE FILE

A

SNAKE, in a fix, tried
a File
For a dinner. "Tis not worth
Said the steel, " your while,"
I'm accustomed to take;
To give's not the way of
a File."

WE MAY MEET OUR MATCH

THE FOX & THE CROW'S

S

AIID sly Fox to the Crow
with the cheese,
"Let me hear your sweet voice,
now, do please!"
And this Crow, being weak,
Cawed the bit from her beak.
"Music charms", said the Fox,
"and here's cheese!"

: BEWARE OF FLATTERERS:





THE DOG IN THE MANGER

ACOW sought a mouthful of hay;
But a Dog in the manger there lay,
And he snapped out "how now!"
When, most mildly, the Cow
Adventured a morsel to pray.

DON'T BE SELFISH.

THE FROG & THE BULL

SAID the Frog, quite puffed up to the eyes,
"Was this Bull about me
as to size?"
"Rather bigger, frog-brother."
"Puff, puff," said the other,
"A Frog is a Bull if he tries!"

BRAG IS NOT ALWAYS BELIEF.



THE FOX & THE CRANE

You have heard how Sir
Fox treated Crane:

With soup in a plate. When again
They dined, a long bottle
Just suited Crane's throttle;
And Sir Fox licked the outside
in vain.

THERE ARE GAMES THAT TWO CAN
PLAY AT





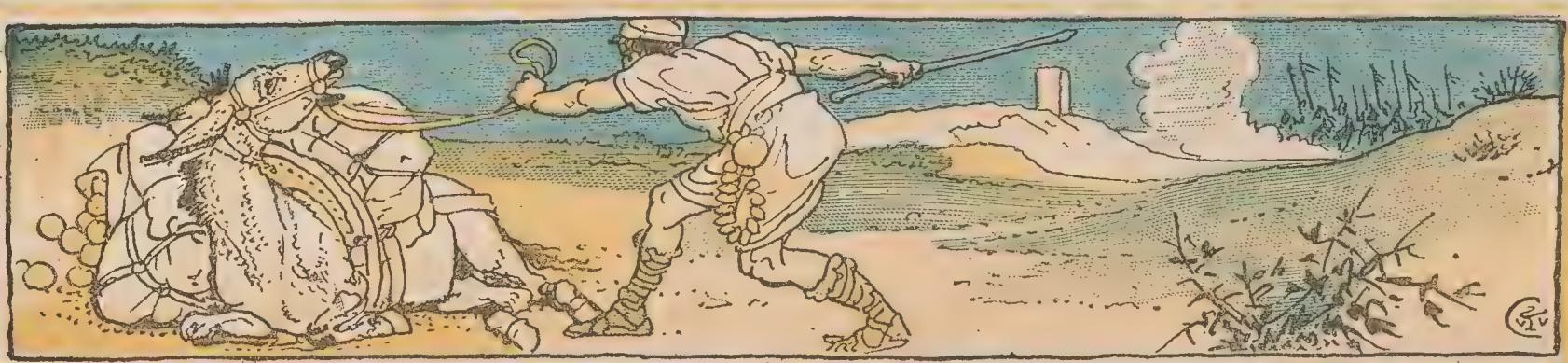
HORSE AND MAN

WHEN the Horse first
Took Man on his back,
To help him the Stag to attack;
How little his dread,
As the enemy fled;
Man would make him his
slave & his hack.

ADVANTAGES MAY BE DEARLY BOUGHT:

THE ASS & THE ENEMY

"GET up! let us flee from
the Foe,"
Said the Man: but the Ass
said "Why so?"
"Will they double my load,
Or my blows? Then, by goad,
And by stirrup, I've no cause
to go."
: YOUR REASONS ARE:
NOT MINE:



THE FOX & THE MOSQUITOES

BEING plagued with Mosquitoes
Said old Fox "one day
pray don't send
them away,
For a hungrier swarm
Would work me more harm;"
I had rather the full ones
should stay."

THERE WERE POLITICIANS IN AESOP'S TIME.



THE FOX & THE LION

HE first time the Fox
had a sight
Of the Lion, he'most died
of fright;
When he next met his eye,
Fox felt just a bit shy;
But the next quite at ease,
& polite.

FAMILIARITY DESTROYS FEAR.



THE MISER & HIS GOLD

HE buried his Gold in a hole.
One saw, and the Treasure
he stole.

Said another, "What matter?
Don't raise such a clatter,
You can still go & sit by
The hole."

USE ALONE GIVES VALUE

THE GOLDEN EGGS

AGOLDEN egg, one every
day,
That simpleton's Goose
used to lay;
So he killed the poor thing,
Swifter fortune to bring,
And dined off his fortune
that day.

:GREED OVERREACHES ITSELF:





THROUGH the town
this good Man & his Son
Strove to ride as to please every one:
Self, Son, or both tried,
Then the Ass had a ride;
While the world, at their efforts,
poked fun.

YOU CANNOT HOPE TO PLEASE ALL--DON'T TRY.

THE OAK & THE REEDS:

Giant Oak, in his strength & his scorn
Of the winds, by the roots was uprooted:

But slim Reeds at his side,
The fierce gale did outlive,
Since, by bending the burden
was borne.

:BEND, NOT BREAK:

THE FIR & THE BRAMBLE:

THE Fir-tree looked down
on the Bramble.
"Poor thing: only able to scramble
About on the ground."
Just then an axe' sound
Made the Fir wish himself
but a Bramble.

"PRIDE OF PLACE HAS ITS DISADVANTAGES."



THE TREES & THE WOODMAN

HE TREES ask of Man
what he lacks;

"One bit, just to handle my axe?"

All he asks - well and good:
But he cuts down the wood,
So well does he handle his axe.

"GIVE ME AN INCH & I'LL TAKE AN
ELL"





THE HART & THE VINE

A Hart by the hunters pursued,
Safely hid in a Vine, till he chewed
The sweet tender green,
And, through shaking leaves
He was stain by his ingratitude.

SPARE YOUR BENEFACTORS.

THE MAN & THE SNAKE

In pity he brought the poor
Snake
To be warmed at his fire.
A mistake!
For the ungrateful thing
Wife & children would sting.
I have known some as bad as
the Snake.

BEWARE HOW YOU

ENTERTAIN TRAITORS



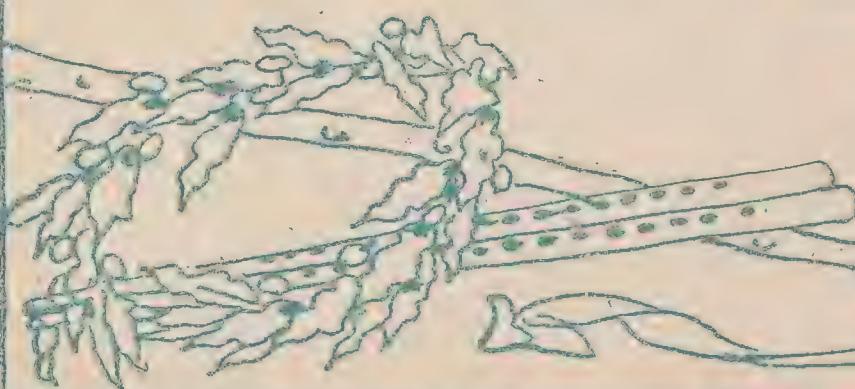
THE FOX & THE MASK.

Fox with his
foot on a
Mask.

Thus Took the fair simblance
To Task;
You're a real handsome face;
But what part of your case

Are your brains in,
good Sir! let me
ask?"

"MASKS ARE THE FACES OF SHAMS:







:THE 'LION' & THE 'STATUE':

ON a Statue - King Lion
dethroned,

Showing conqueror Man,
Lion frowned.

" If a Lion, you know,
Had been sculptor, he'd show
Lion rampant, and Man on the
ground."

THE STORY DEPENDS ON THE TELLER.



:THE BOASTER:

IN the house, in the market, the streets,
Everywhere he was boasting his feats;

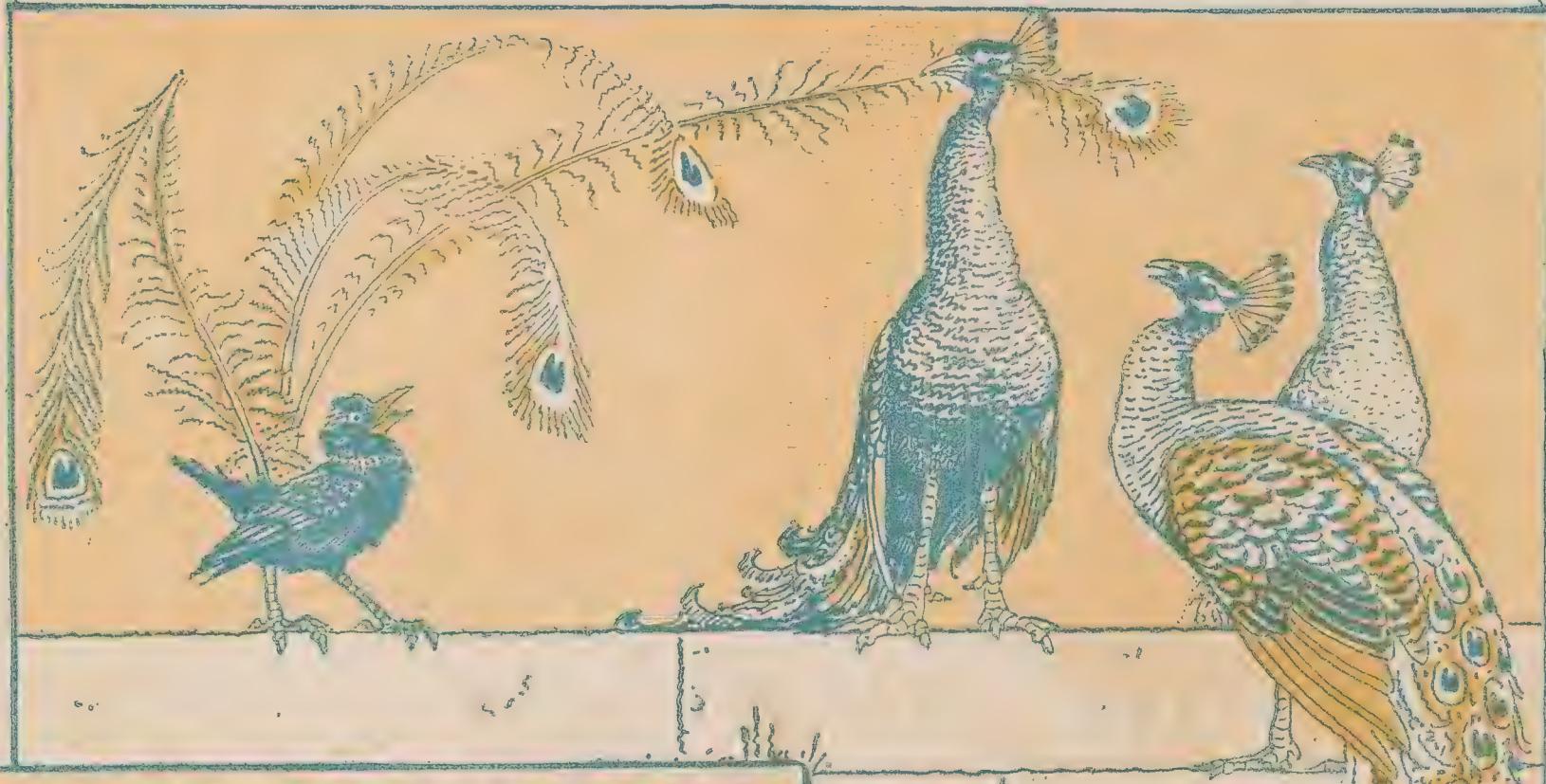
Till one said, with a sneer,

"Let us see it done here !

What's so oft done with ease, one
repeats "

• DEEDS •

NOT • WORDS •

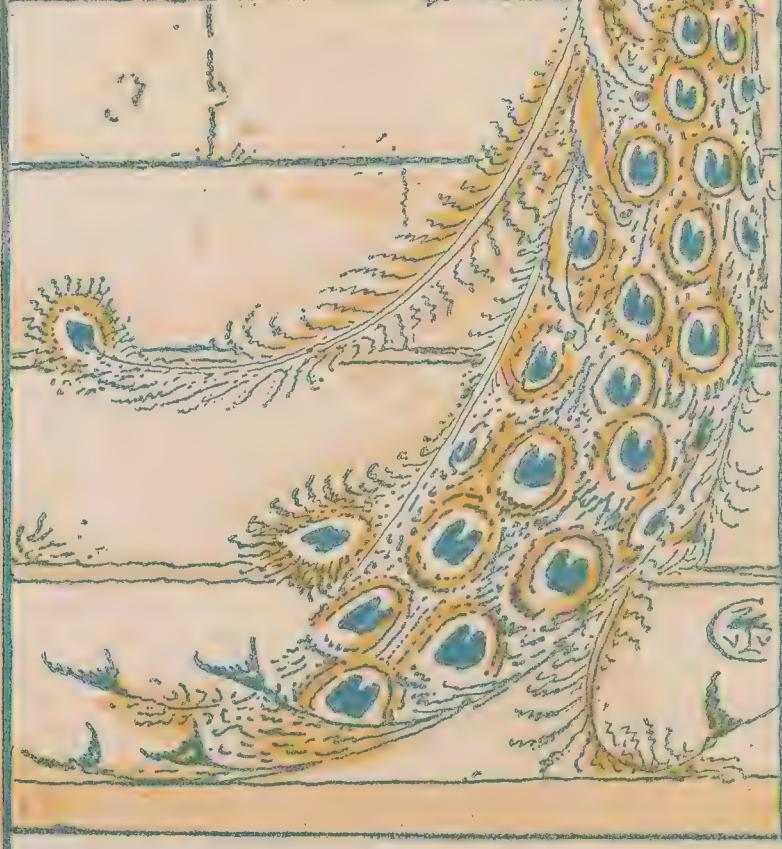


THE VAIN JACKDAW:

"FINE feathers," Jack thought,
"make fine fowls;
I'll be envied of bats & of owls:

But the peacock's proud eyes
Saw through his disguise,
And Jack fled the assembly
of fowls.

"BORROWED PLUMES"
"ARE SOON DISCOVERED"







: THE TWO CRABS:

“awkward, so shambling
a gait!”
Mrs Crab did her daughter
berate,
Who rejoined, “It is true
I am backward; but you
Needed lessons in walking
quite late.”

: LOOK AT HOME:

: THE TWO JARS:

“Never fear!” said the Brass
To the Clay
Of two Jars that the flood
bore away:
“Keep you close to my side!”
But the porcelain replied,
“I’ll be smashed if beside you
I stay.”

: OUR FRIEND OUR ENEMY:





BROTHER & SISTER

TWIN children: The Girl,
she was plain;
The Brother was handsome &
vain;
“Let him brag of his looks,”
Father said; “mind your books!
The best beauty is bred in the brain.”

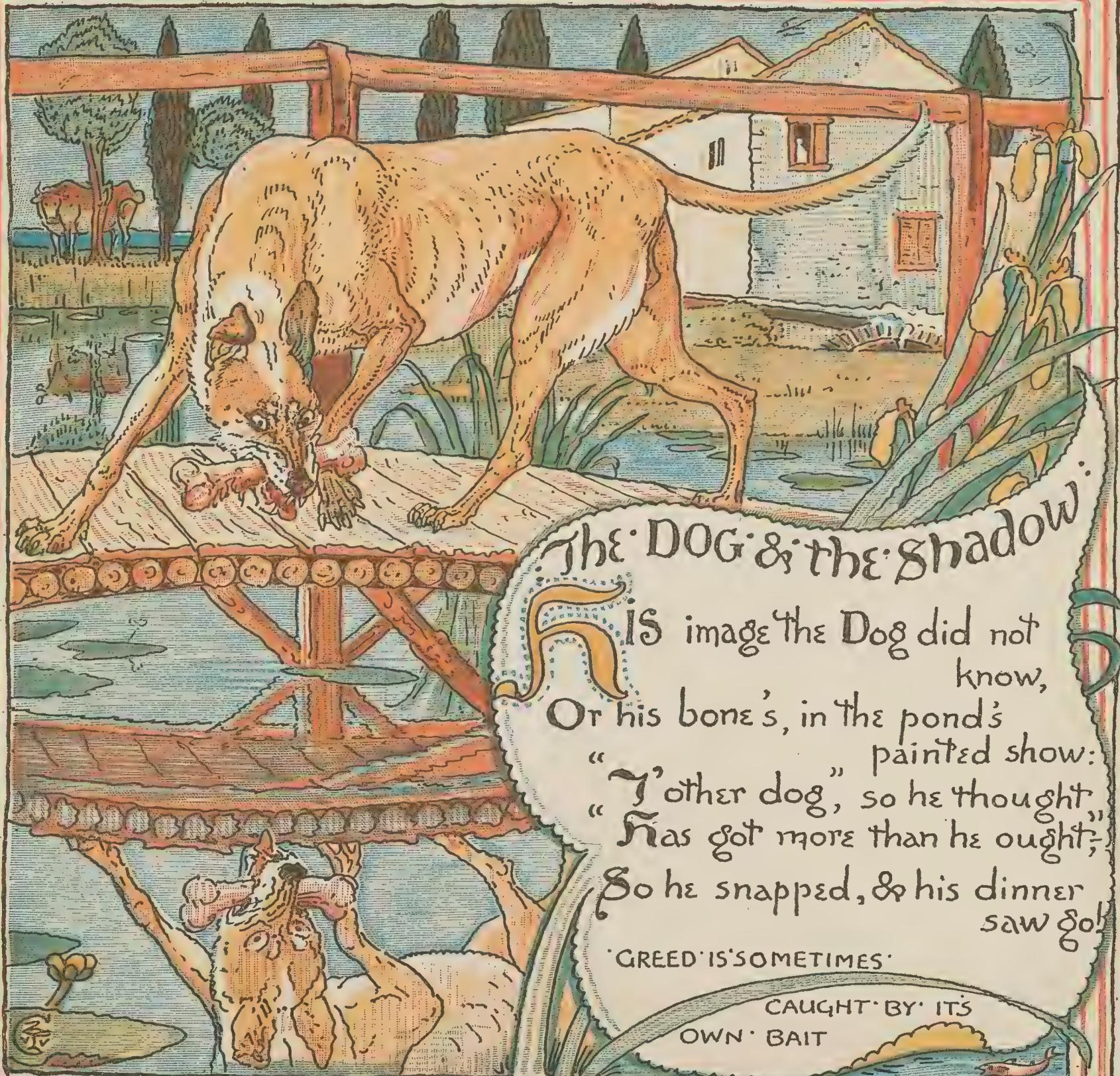
HANDSOME IS AS HANDSOME DOES :



The FOX WITHOUT a TAIL

aid Fox, minus Tail in a Trap,
“My friends! here’s a lucky
mishap;
Give your tails a short lease!
- But the foxes were ^{n’t} geese,
And none followed the fashion
of trap.

: YET SOME FASHIONS HAVE NO BETTER REASON :





• USE YOUR WITS •

THE CROW & THE PITCHER

W¹ the cunning old Crow got his drink
When 'twas low in the pitcher, just think!
Don't say that he spilled it!
With pebbles he filled it,
Till the water rose up to the brink.

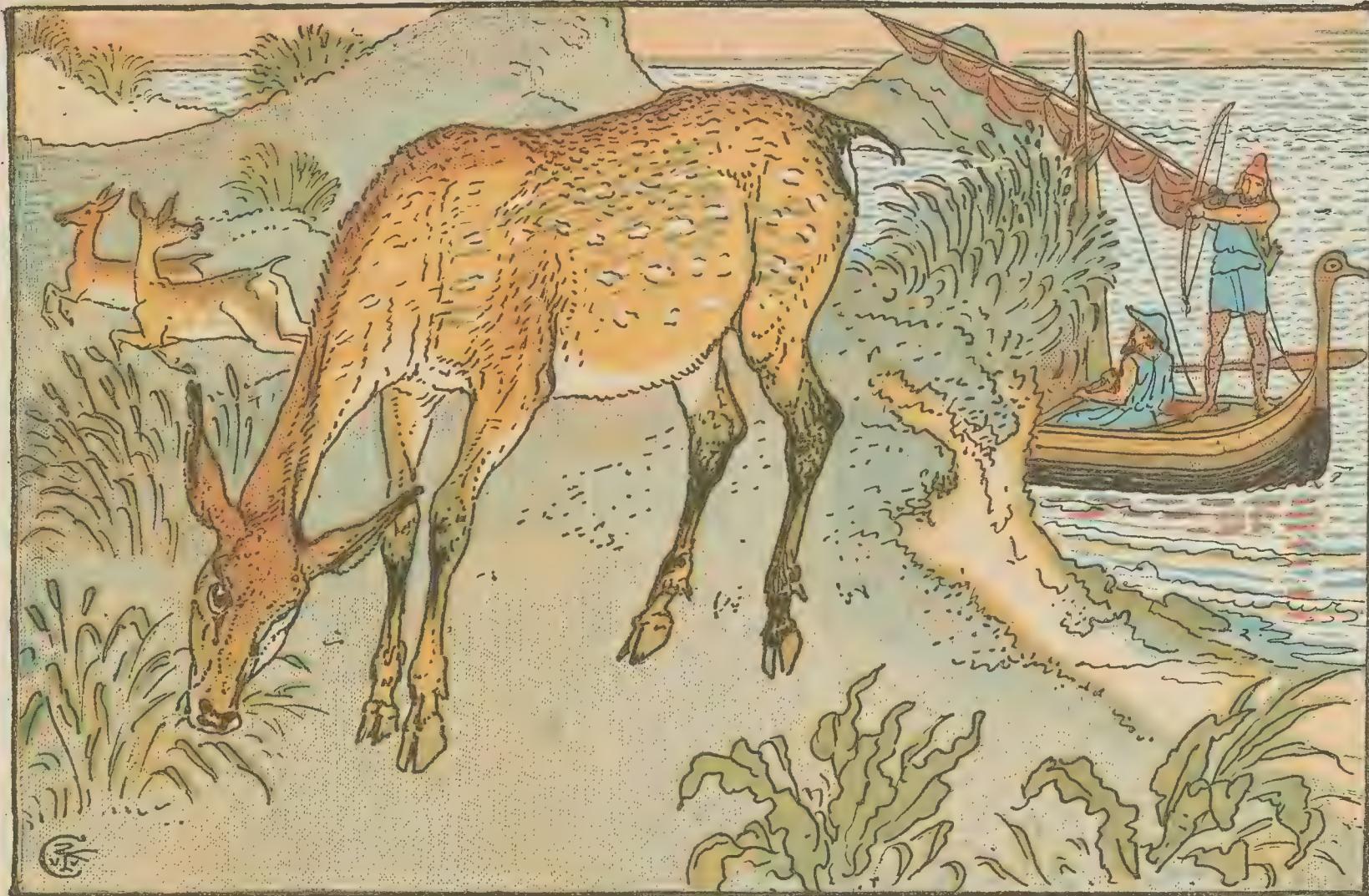


THE EAGLE AND THE CROW

HE Eagle flew off with a lamb;
Then the Crow thought to lift an old ram,
In his eaglish conceit,
The wool tangled his feet,
And the shepherd laid hold of the sham.

• BEWARE OF OVERATING YOUR OWN POWERS •





•THE•BLIND•DOE•

A poor half-blind Doe her one eye
kept shoreward, all danger to spy,
As she fed by the sea,
Poor innocent! she
Was shot from a boat passing by.

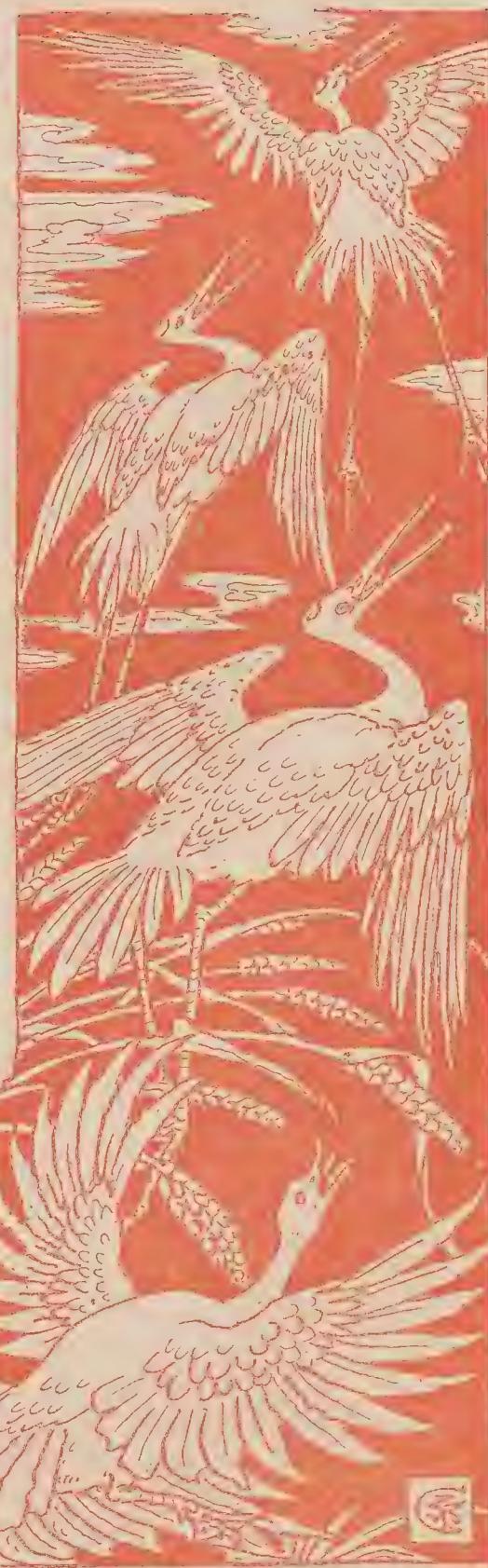
: WATCH • ON • ALL • SIDES :

THE GEESE & THE CRANES

THE Geese joined the Cranes in some wheat;
All was well, till, disturbed at their treat;

Light-winged, the Cranes fled,
But the slow Geese, well fed,
Couldn't rise, and were caught in retreat.

: BEWARE . . . OF ENTERPRIZES WHERE
THE RISKS . . . ARE . . . NOT . . . EQUAL :

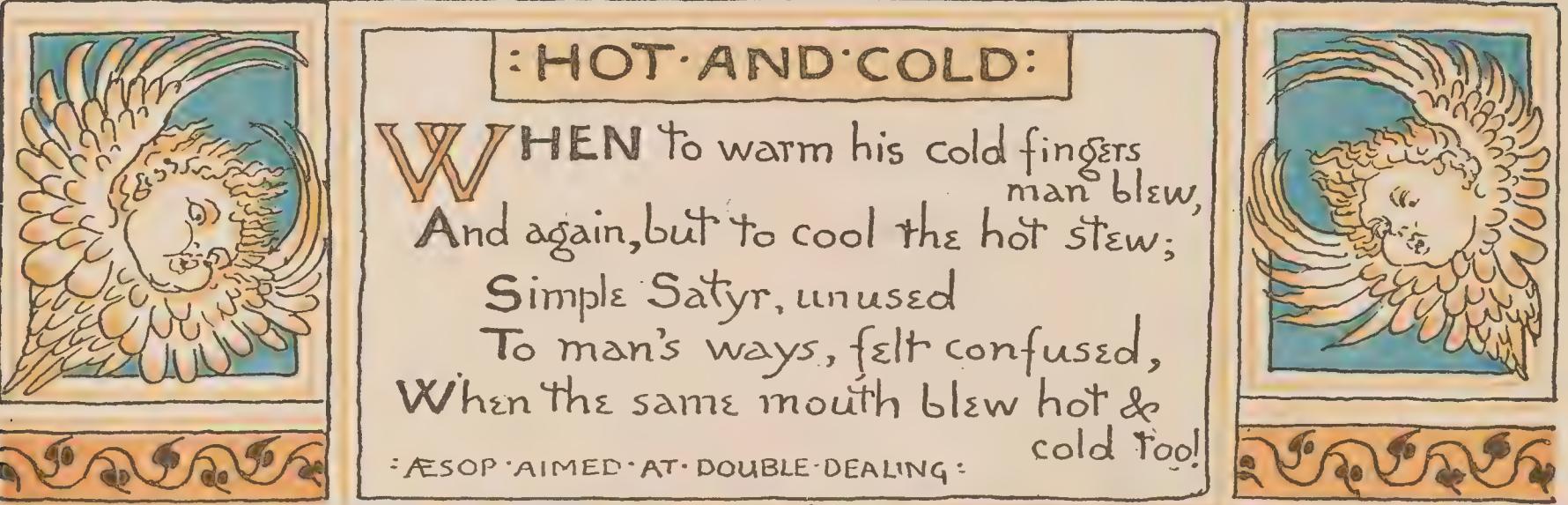




THE TRUMPETER TAKEN PRISONER

Trumpeter, prisoner made,
Hoped his life would be spared
He'd no part in the fight,
But they answered him "Right,"
when he said
But what of the music you made?"

SONGS MAY SERVE
A CAUSE AS WELL AS SWORDS



:HOT·AND·COLD:

WHEN To warm his cold fingers
man blew,
And again, but to cool the hot stew;
Simple Satyr, unused
To man's ways, felt confused,
When the same mouth blew hot &
cold too!

·ÆSOP·AIMED·AT·DOUBLE·DEALING·



:NEITHER·BEAST·NOR·BIRD:

Beast he
would be, or
a bird,

As might suit, thought the Bat:
but he erred.

When the battle was done,
He found that no one
Would take him for friend at
his word.

:BETWEEN·TWO·STOOLS·
YOU·MAY·COME·TO·THE·GROUND:





THE STAG IN THE OX-STALL & THE DEER & THE LION

SAFE enough lay the poor
hunted Deer
In the ox-stall, with nothing
to fear
From the careless-eyed men :
Till the Master came ; then
There was no hiding-place
for the Deer.

: AN EYE IS
KEEN IN ITS
OWN
INTEREST:

FROM the hounds the swift
Deer sped away,
To his cave, where in past times
he lay
Well concealed; unaware
Of a Lion couched there,
For a spring that soon made
him his prey.

: FATE ·
CAN · MEET ·
AS · WELL · AS ·
· FOLLOW ·

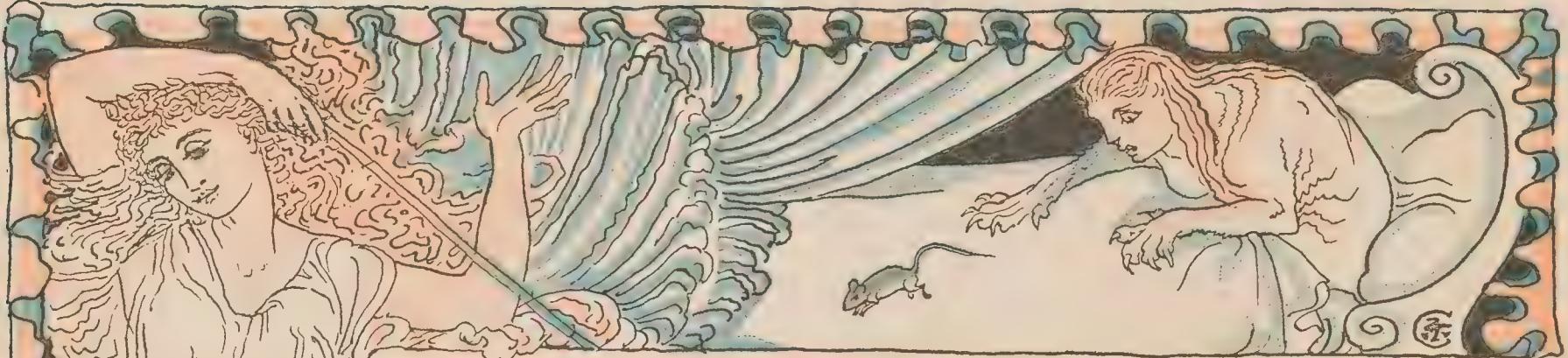


THE LION IN LOVE

THOUGH the Lion in love let
them draw
All his teeth, and pare down every
claw,
He'd no bride for his pains,
For they beat out his brains
Ere he set on his maiden
a paw.



OUR VERY MEANS MAY
DEFEAT OUR ENDS



THE CAT AND VENUS

"MIGHT his Cat be a woman", he said:

Venus changed her: the couple were wed:
But a mouse in her sight
Metamorphosed her quite,
And, for bride, a cat found he instead.

: NATURE WILL OUT:

MICE IN COUNCIL

AGAINST Cat sat
a Council of Mice.
Every Mouse came out
prompt with advice;
And a bell on Cat's throat
Would have met a round vote,
Had the bell-hanger not
been so nice.

: THE BEST POLICY OFTEN
• TURNS ON AN IF : -





•THE HEN AND THE FOX•

THE Hen roosted high on her perch;
Hungry Fox down below, on the search,
Coaxed her hard to descend
She replied, "Most dear friend!
I feel more secure on my perch."

: BEWARE OF INTERESTED FRIENDSHIPS:

•THE CAT AND THE FOX•

THE Fox said "I can play,
when it fits,
Many wiles that with man make
me quits"
"But my trick's up a tree!"
Said the Cat, safe to see
Clever Fox hunted out of his wits.

: TRUST TO SKILL RATHER THAN WIT:



THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE

T WAS a race between Tortoise and Hare,
Puss was sure she'd so much time to spare,
That she lay down to sleep,
And let old Thick-shell creep
To the winning-post first! You may stare.

PERSISTENCE BEATS IMPULSE

THE HARES AND THE FROGS

TIMID Hares, from the trumpeting wind,
Fled as swift as the fear in their mind;
Till in fright from their fear,
From the green sedges near,
Leaping Frogs left their terror behind.

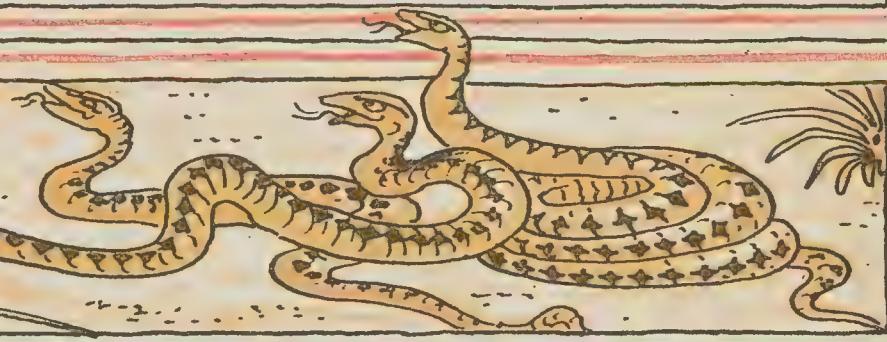
OUR OWN ARE NOT THE ONLY TROUBLES



PORCUPINE, SNAKE, & COMPANY.

GOING shares with the Snakes, Porcupine
Said "the best of the bargain is mine"
Nor would he back down,
When the snakes would disown
The agreement his quills made them sign.

HASTY PARTNERSHIPS MAY BE REPENTED OF.



THE BEAR & THE BEES:

THEIR honey I'll have when I
"Who cares for such small things as ^{please;}
Said the Bear; but the stings ^{Bees?"}
of these very small things
Left him not very much at his ease.

THE WEAKEST UNITED MAY BE STRONG TO AVENGE



THE BUNDLE OF STICKS:

To his sons, who fell out, father spake:

This Bundle of Sticks you can't break;

Take them singly, with ease,

You may break as you please;

So, dissension your strength will unmake.

STRENGTH IS IN UNITY:

THE FARMER'S TREASURE

66 DIG deeply, my Sons! through
this field!
There's a Treasure — he died:
unrevealed

The spot where 'twas laid,
They dug as he bade;
And the Treasure was found in
the yield.

•PRODUCTIVE LABOUR IS THE ONLY SOURCE OF WEALTH•





THE COCK THE ASS & THE LION.

THE Ass gave a horrible bray,
Cock crowed; Lion scampered away;
Ass judged he was scared
By the bray, and so dared
To pursue; Lion ate him they say.

DON'T TAKE ALL THE CREDIT TO YOURSELF!

THE ASS AND THE LAP-DOG:

"LOW Master that little Dog pets!"
Thinks the Ass; & with jealousy frets,
So he climbs Master's knee,
Hoping dog-like to please,
And a drubbing is all that he gets.

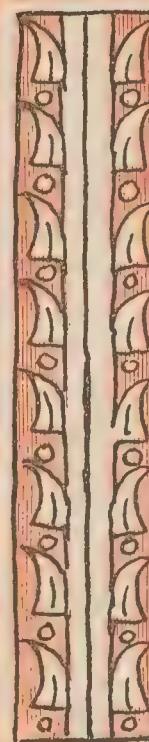
ASSES MUST NOT EXPECT TO BE FONDLED!



FORTUNE AND THE BOY

A Boy heedless slept by the well
By Dame Fortune awaked, truth to tell,
Said she, "Hadst been drowned,
T would have surely been found
This by Fortune, not Folly befel."

FORTUNE IS NOT ANSWERABLE FOR OUR WANT OF FORESIGHT.



THE UNGRATEFUL WOLF:

To the Wolf, from whose throat
Drew the bone, his long bill made
it plain
He expected his fee:
Snarled Wolf - "Fiddle de dee,
Be thankful your head's out again
" SOME CHARACTERS.
HAVE NO SENSE OF OBLIGATION:

THE FISHERMAN & THE FISH:

PRAYED the Fish, as the Fisherman took
Him, a poor little mite, from his hook,
"Let me go! I'm so small."

He replied, "Not at all!
You're the biggest, perhaps in the brook."

A LITTLE CERTAINTY IS BETTER THAN A GREAT CHANCE:



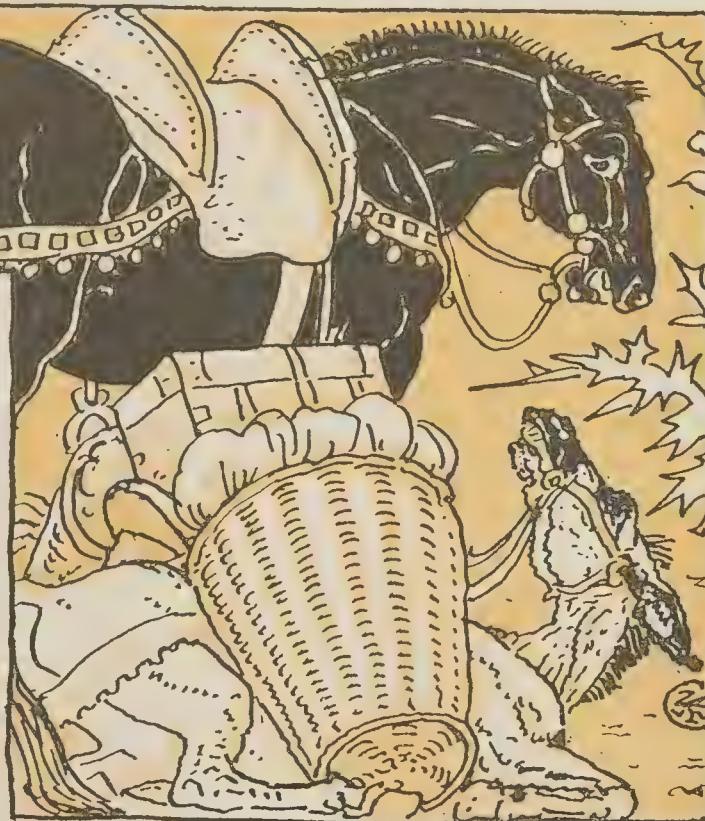
THE HERDSMANS VOWS

A KID vowed to Jove, so might
Find his herd, & his herd did ^{he} see
Soon, of lions the prey:
Then 'twas - "Get me away,
And a goat of the best take for ^{he} see.
HOW OFTEN WOULD WE MEND OUR WISHES!"



THE HORSE AND THE ASS:

VERLADEN the Ass was. The Horse
wouldn't help; but had time for re-
morse
When the Ass lay dead there;
For he then had to bear
Both the load of the Ass & his
corse.
GRUDGE NOT HELP!



THE ASS & THE SICK LION:
CRAFTY Lion, - perhaps with the gout
Kept his cave ; where, to solve any doubt,
Many visitors go :
But the Ass, he said "No !"
They go in, but I've seen none come out.

REASON FROM RESULTS.

THE END





BABY'S OWN ÆSOP

* WALTER CRANE *

ALSO BY THE
SAME:

"THE
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